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Urmston Urban District Council

# Annual Report

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH

for the year

1943

URMSTON:

"Telegraph" Printing Co. Ltd., Railway Road.



# Urmston Urban District Council

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Chairman of the Council:

Councillor JAMES CHAPMAN, J. P.

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## HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE.

1943 — 1944.

Councillor S. C. Shaw, *Chairman*.

Councillor Mrs. B. E. Bull, *Vice-Chairman*.

Councillor J. H. Batten

Councillor H. Stewart

Councillor R. P. Cartwright

Councillor Dr. R. H. Tootill,

B.Sc., Engn.

O.B.E., M.B., Ch. B.

Councillor H. Howsdon

Councillor F. E. Trigg.

Councillor S. N. Penlington,  
J.P.

Councillor Mrs. A. M. Wilkinson.  
County Councillor W. Wroe.

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*Medical Officer of Health*

A. V. STOCKS, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

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*Chief Sanitary Inspector—*

\* W. WOOD, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

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*Additional Sanitary Inspectors—*

\* L. HALL, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

\* P. McKENNA, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

\* Certified Meat and Food Inspector.

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*Public Health Department—*

*Chief Clerk—*G. W. Blake. Joined H.M. Forces  
October, 1941.

*Asst. Clerk—*M. Lambert. Joined H. M. Forces  
November, 1940.

*Temporary Asst. Clerk—*S. Rogerson. Appointed Dec., 1940.

„ „ „ —G. Ryder. Appointed July, 1941.

*Typist —*Miss M. Worthington, Directed to  
Industry September, 1943.

„ —Miss B. Harrison.

„ —Mrs. E. Ramsden, Appointed March 1943



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# Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1943.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF URMSTON.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my annual report on the health and sanitary conditions of the district.

The report deals with the year ending December 31st, 1943, and the arrangement of sections is the same as in previous reports, but the report has been again condensed in accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health and certain tables and figures, including statistics of population are omitted.

## SECTION A.—GEOGRAPHICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The geographical conditions of the area have been dealt with in previous reports. The estimate of population by the Registrar General does not differ materially from the estimate for the previous year.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

**BIRTH RATE.**—There has been a marked increase in the number of births during the year. The increase over the previous year in the number of births was 115. The birth rate per thousand of the estimated population was 19 for the year; this is the highest rate recorded since the amalgamation of the district. Still births numbered 25, the same as in the previous year. There was an increase in illegitimate births from 22 to 27 in the year. The following table gives the birth rate per thousand of the estimated population for Urmston and for England and Wales for the past five years.

Birth rates per 1,000 estimated population.

Year.	Urmston U.D.	England and Wales.
1939	16.6	15.0.
1940	15.4	14.6.
1941	15.2	14.2.
1942	15.5	15.8.
1943	19.0	16.5.



**INFANT MORTALITY.**—The death rate of infants under one year of age was 56.3 per thousand live births as against 63 in 1942 and 64.8 in 1941. Thirty per cent. of the deaths occurred before the third day; forty-six per cent. of the deaths took place during the first month of life, half of the deaths occurred outside the urban district.

Principal causes of death were as follows, the number of deaths in each case being indicated by the figure in brackets :—prematurity (8), pneumonia (8), intracranial haemorrhage or convulsions (3), gastro-enteritis (3), asphyxia (2), misadventure (2). There was one death from whooping cough.

**MATERNAL MORTALITY.**—Two maternal deaths occurred during the year, one from puerperal sepsis and one from other maternal causes.

**GENERAL DEATH RATE.**—The crude death rate per 1,000 of the population was 11.2. The figures for the last five years are given below for Urmston and England and Wales.

Death Rates per 1,000 Estimated Population :—		
Year	Urmston U.D.	England and Wales.
1939	10.1	12.1.
1940	12.2	14.3.
1941	10.9	12.9.
1942	10.9	11.6.
1943	11.2	12.1.

The deaths from bronchitis and pneumonia show a decline compared with the previous year, but there is a slight increase in deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system and other respiratory diseases. The figures for the past five years are given below.

Year.	Bronchitis	Pneumonia	Tuber- culosis.	Other Respiratory Diseases.	Total.
1939	8	19	13	3	43.
1940	49	28	13	9	99.
1941	31	23	8	4	66.
1942	28	21	13	4	66.
1943	27	19	14	8	68.

The deaths attributed to influenza showed a marked increase, numbering 18 as against 3 in each of the two previous years, in consequence of the epidemic of influenza which was widespread in the Autumn of 1943. One death occurred from cerebro-spinal fever, one from diphtheria, one from measles and three from diarrhoea under the age of two years. The deaths from cancer numbered 59 compared with 54 in the previous year and 55 in 1941.

## SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(a) **LABORATORY FACILITIES.**—There has been no change in the arrangement since the last report. The number of examinations carried out in 1943 was 375 made up as follows :—

SWABS :—

Diphtheria .....218

OTHER SPECIMENS ..... 8

MILK :—

Biological ..... 41

Bacteriological ..... 87

Phosphatase Test ..... 17

WATER :—

Swimming Bath ..... 4

(b) **AMBULANCE FACILITIES.**—For the removal of infectious cases other than smallpox, the ambulances of the Salford Corporation are available; for cases of smallpox the ambulance of the Bury and District Joint Board is available. For the removal of non-infectious cases of sickness, accident and maternity patients, the Stretford and Urmston Joint Brigade operated two ambulances in the joint area up to the 30th November, 1943. As from the 1st December one of these ambulances, a Ford vehicle, was by arrangement with the Stretford Authority, handed over to this Council, the other ambulance being retained by the Borough of Stretford.

During the month of December, this being the first month during which the Council operated its own Ambulance Service entirely, the number of calls on the ambulances was 74, of which 12 were accident cases, 17 sudden illness, and 16 maternity patients, the total mileage involved being 772.

(c) **MEDICAL AND NURSING FACILITIES IN THE HOME.**—

There has been no change in these arrangements since my last report.

(d) **TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.**— These are under the control of the Lancashire County Council and may be summarised as follows :—

1. WELFARE CENTRES.

Davyhulme : "The Moorlands," Cornhill Rd., 2—4 p.m. Monday.  
Flixton : Alker Hall, Flixton Road .....2—4 p.m. Tuesday.  
Urmston : "The Moorlands," Cornhill Rd., 2—4 p.m. Wednesday.

The number of attendances at these centres totals 10,334 during the year, compared with 9,627 in the previous year, and 9,031 in 1941.

2. ANTE-NATAL CLINICS. These are held as under :—

- (1) "The Moorlands" Cornhill Rd., Davyhulme, Friday afternoon
- (2) Welfare Centre, Green Lane, Patricroft, Friday morning and afternoon.

3. SCHOOL CLINIC ("The Moorlands") Minor Ailments—Monday 9-30 to 12-0. Dental, Ophthalmic, Diphtheria Immunisation—by appointment. Orthopaedic cases are seen by appointment at the School Clinic, Longfield Lodge, Cadishead.

4 TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARIES. Lancashire County Council Dispensaries are situated at :—

1. Gilda Brook Road, Eccles.
2. 14, Derbyshire Lane, Stretford.

(e) **HOSPITALS—PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY** : There has been no change in the hospital arrangements since my last report.

## SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

There is nothing of importance to report in connection with water supply, drainage, sewerage, rivers and streams, or sanitary accommodation.

**PUBLIC CLEANSING**.—In consequence of the necessity for curtailing the report, the usual section dealing with this service is omitted.

**SANITARY INSPECTIONS**.—The number of visits and inspections of premises during the year was 3,210 as against 2,839 for 1942. The number of nuisance defects discovered was 163 of which 121 were abated. Statutory Notices were served in 62 instances.

### **ERADICATION OF BED BUGS DURING THE YEAR.**

Forty-three houses were found to be infested, this being twenty less than in the previous year.

## SECTION D.—HOUSING.

No new houses were erected during the year either by the Local Authority or by any other persons.



## SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### MILK SUPPLY.—

(a) LICENCES.—The following licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936 and 1938 have been issued to dealers :—

Tuberculin Tested Milk—None.

Accredited milk	(1) Bottling.....	1
	(2) Distribution .....	2
Pasteurised milk	(1) Plants .....	1
	(2) Retail distributors.....	2

(b) DAIRIES, MILK SHOPS, etc.

The inspections of these premises during the year numbered 75. There are 26 milk purveyors in the district.

(c) FARMS.

There are 13 Dairy Farms and about 223 cows in the district. Inspections during the year numbered 91.

(d) SAMPLING OF MILK.

(1) Samples submitted for biological test numbered 41 as against 49 in the previous year. The number giving positive results was 3.

(2) Samples submitted for bacteriological test numbered 87 of which 65 were satisfactory and 22 were unsatisfactory.

**MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.**—There is nothing calling for special comment during the year.

## SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.**—Notifications of cases of infectious diseases amongst civilians numbered 760 as against 475 in the previous year and 514 in 1941. The epidemic of measles which began towards the end of 1942 continued during the early part of 1943, 365 cases being notified. One death occurred from measles. There were 163 cases of whooping cough notified during the year.

There was an increase in the cases of diphtheria, notifications numbering 26 as against 17 in the previous year; many of these cases were traceable to contacts from nasal carriers and since these have been discovered there has been a marked lessening in the incidence. One death occurred during the year from diphtheria; this was an adult. The number of cases of cerebrospinal fever notified during the year was five and there was one death.

### SCARLET FEVER.

Scarlet fever was again very prevalent; the number of cases notified being 144, a rise of 37 on the year. The following table gives the number of cases notified each quarter during the years 1942 and 1943, together with hospital admissions for scarlet fever.

<i>Year.</i>		<i>Notifications.</i>	<i>Admissions to Hospitals.</i>
1942.	1st Quarter	3	1
	2nd „	33	19
	3rd „	14	9
	4th „	54	33
1943.	1st „	27	18
	2nd „	35	24
	3rd „	55	35
	4th „	22	14

Your Medical Officer has been of the opinion for some time that the mild type of case encountered in this epidemic is better nursed at home than in hospital, provided that proper isolation and nursing are available and that there are no special reasons calling for hospital treatment. This view was put before the local practitioners in January 1944 and in a further communication local doctors were requested not to promise hospital treatment for cases of scarlet fever without consultation with the Health Department except in cases of emergency. In consequence of these representations, the proportion of cases admitted to hospital for this disease has declined during the Spring of 1944.

DIPHTHERIA.—The following table shows the incidence of diphtheria in the last four years amongst the civilian population.

### NOTIFICATIONS OF DIPHTHERIA AMONGST CIVILIANS

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Under</i>	<i>5—14.</i>	<i>15—19.</i>	<i>20—34.</i>	<i>35 &amp; over.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1940.	5	8	—	6	—	18.
1941.	4	7	3	1	2	20.
1942.	7	8	2	6	—	17.
1943.	1	16	3	5	1	26.

The most satisfactory feature of this table is the reduction in notifications of diphtheria amongst children under school age, and this can undoubtedly be attributed to the increasing proportion of immunised children between the ages of one and five years. An intensive campaign was undertaken during the year to secure the immunisation of these children in accordance with instructions issued by the Ministry of Health and the County Council.

Through the co-operation of the Food Office, a list of 2,655 children under the age of five years was obtained, and was checked against the office records of immunisation; from this it was ascertained that about 930 children were known to have been immunised. The names of the remaining children were put on to special cards arranged in roads, and issued to the County Health Visitors who, together with the Sister in Charge of the Mobile Civil Defence Unit, visited the homes concerned to make enquiries regarding immunisation. The result was that homes of 1,500 children were thus visited, and it was found that many had already been immunised privately or in other districts. Many of the remainder were under the age of one, or were brought for immunisation to the clinics as a result of the canvass, and the final figure of 67 per cent. for immunised children was attained.

This is considered highly satisfactory for children 0 to 5 years, since a higher percentage than 80 cannot be attained if children are not immunised until they are twelve months old. The figure of school children immunised is about 77 per cent.

A number of cases occurred during the year of children contracting diphtheria, who had been immunised four or more years previously. Because of this, parents have now been advised by means of cards distributed through the schools, that a "stepping-up dose" should be given after a period of four years or more has elapsed from the original immunisation.

The response to this suggestion has been very satisfactory during the early part of 1944, some 413 children having been given the additional inoculation.

#### NUMBER OF CHILDREN IMMUNISED AGAINST DIPHTHERIA :—

Year.	School children.	Children under school age.	Total.
1937	379	55	452
1938	1132	251	1383
1939	151	116	267
1940	64	69	133
1941	534	381	918
1942	504	588	1092
1943	343	592	935

No Schick Tests were performed during the year at the Clinics.



In addition to the facilities provided at these sessions at the Clinic, it was decided by resolution of the Council in December, 1940, that medical practitioners be supplied free of cost with immunising materials for use in their Surgeries for children resident in the district.

Diphtheria antitoxin is provided free by the Council and available at local chemists and also at the Urmston Police Station by day or night, at times when chemists supplies are not available.

**WHOOPING COUGH AND MEASLES.**—The Council on the advice of the Medical Officer of Health agreed in December, 1940, to supply free of cost to Medical Practitioners suitable vaccines or sera for the treatment or prevention of these diseases, in accordance with Section 65 of the Urmston Urban District Council Act, 1935. So far, only vaccines or antigens for whooping cough have been used, there being no demand for measles serum.

**SCABIES.**—The Scabies Order came into force on 28th October, 1941. During the year under review 45 cases came to the notice of the Public Health Department through information received from the Manchester Skin Hospital, the School Clinic or local medical practitioners; these were all visited and advice given.

In December the Council decided on the advice of the Medical Officer of Health to establish a Cleansing and Treatment Centre at Collingwood First Aid Post, to which persons suffering from Scabies could be referred by their medical practitioner.

Treatment consists of a warm shower followed by the application of the Benzyl Benzoate Emulsion by a trained nurse or First Aid man, the patient returning on the third day for a further shower and bringing a change of underclothing; the scheme has worked satisfactorily.

Two cases were dealt with by the end of the year and in the first six months of 1944 twenty-three cases were treated.



**TUBERCULOSIS.**—There has been a tendency for mortality from tuberculosis to rise since the war began, in the country as a whole, as was the case in the last war. In view of this the following table is of interest.

NEW NOTIFICATIONS OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
1st Quarter	6	7	8	9	7
2nd Quarter	7	9	10	5	4
3rd Quarter	13	9	4	9	10
4th Quarter	5	10	6	13	9
	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	31	35	28	36	30
	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths ...	13	13	8	13	10

NEW NOTIFICATIONS OF NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
1st Quarter	6	4	2	6	6
2nd Quarter	6	4	6	3	9
3rd Quarter	5	3	3	4	5
4th Quarter	4	5	6	11	7
	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	21	16	17	24	27
	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths ...	5	1	5	4	1

DISINFECTIONS :—

The number of houses disinfected after the occurrence of infectious diseases was 192 during the year under review.

In conclusion I desire to express my appreciation of the work of the members of the staff of the Public Health Department during the year, and to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health and Housing Committee for the help and support given to the Department in all its activities.

A. V. STOCKS,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*





